

FORESTRY BULLETIN

Forestry Serious Accidents Yearly Summary July 1994 - June 1995

The tables below and on the reverse side detail serious accidents reported to Occupational Safety and Health under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992.

Forestry and Tree Work

"Forestry and tree work" covers all in-forest operations outside logging, and also includes tree work outside the forest situation in arboriculture, firewood gathering, catchment board work, shelter-belt maintenance and work on trees to prevent disruption to services, including electricity.

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Activity	Cause	External Agency	Injury Type
Land preparation	4 Hit by falling object	4 Chainsaw	14 Fracture
Roading	1 Hit by moving object	11 Chainsaw	7 Strain/Sprain
Pruning	40 Hit by object	5 Tree	6 Laceration
Thinning	13 Contact object carried	12 Shrub	11 Bruising
Felling	2 Slip/Slide	18 Hand tool	11 Crushing
Access	10 Trip/Stumble/Fall	15 Vehicle	2 OOS
Fire protection	1 Lifting/Stretching	6 Ladder/Grip	11 Puncture
Plotting/Survey	2 Repetitive movement	5 Terrain	13 Dislocation
Spraying	1 Kickback	2 All terrain vehicle	2 Internal
Catchment work	1 Mechanical malfunction	1 None	2 Multiple
Nursery	2 Contact material/liquid	2 Stick/Spike/Stump	2 Amputation
Tree work	3 Vehicle movement	2 Dead spar/top	1 Foreign body
Planting	2	Structure	1
Firewood	1		
	83	83	83
		Body Part	
	Head	12 Back	6
	Shoulder	4 Leg	12
	Elbow	2 Knee	4
	Arm	9 Foot	8
	Hand	11 Multiple	5
	Trunk	10	
			83

The number of serious accidents was similar to that reported last year.

Once again, pruning work accounted for half the accidents. The main causes were: slips, slides and falls while gaining access through the stand; contact with chainsaws, saws and pruners while carrying them; accidents with ladders and grips; and eye injuries while pushing through gorse and scrub.

Lacerations are similar in ratio to those in logging, but fractures and crushing much less. Strains and sprains due to falls and hand tool operation are more common in forestry and tree work.

While leg and foot injuries are dominant in logging, there appears to be a wider spread of the main injuries in forestry and tree work.

Logging

“Logging” covers any work connected with logging operations and includes: log cartage, commercial firewood operations, and handling of export logs into the ship’s hold (unless loaded by the crew).

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Activity	Cause	External Agency	Injury Type
Felling	36 Hit by falling object	26 Chainsaw	48 Fracture
Trimming	35 Hit by moving object	57 Branch	14 Strain/Sprain
Breaking out	14 Hit object	5 Log/Part of log	33 Laceration
Stropping up	1 Contact object carried	23 Tree/Part of tree	14 Bruising
Hauling	4 Slip/Slide	16 Spar/Top	13 Crushing
Skidwork/yard	36 Trip/Stumble/Fall	15 Terrain	12 Puncture
Access	13 Lifting/Stretching	2 Hand tool	3 Dislocation
Maintenance	6 Repetitive movement	1 Rigging	12 Amputation
Driving/Operating	16 Kickback	17 Vehicle	5 Burn
Transportation	4 Mechanical malfunction	2 Trailer	2 Foreign body
Splicing	1 Contact material/powder/	Wire rope	6 Multiple
Work preparation	1 liquid	4 Skidder/Bell	6
Cross cutting	2 Collapse of stack etc.	1 Ladder	1
Stacking/Sorting	3 Sudden movement	4 Grit	1
Loader	1 Misjudgement	1 Rock	2
Roading	1	Shrub	1
		None	1
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Body Part

Head	16	Back	10
Shoulder	1	Leg	34
Arm	13	Knee	8
Hand	26	Foot	42
Trunk	11	Multiple	13
			174

The total number of serious accidents reported was similar to last year. There was a slight fall in the number of felling accidents, but a doubling of skid and yard work accidents.

Almost half the serious accidents reported took place in felling and trimming. Accidents while working on skids doubled, while breaking out and driver/operator injuries remained similar to last year.

The main causes of accidents remained being hit by whole or part of trees, logs and branches, and

various types of rigging. These resulted in a high number of fractures and crushing to arms, legs and feet.

Falls, trips and slips while moving to another personal work area or while working on logs or slash resulted in one accident in six.

Chainsaws feature in one accident in four. The main causes were: kickback; falls onto saws; or contact while operating or carrying. Some of these accidents resulted in very severe lacerations.